

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 DHA-02 TRSE-00 IO-13 OMB-01 BIB-01 /082 W
-----071737Z 058222 /47

R 071343Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2499
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USNATO BRUSSELS 550

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SOFIA 0465

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, PFOR, BU, UK, ECE
SUBJECT: UK-BULGARIAN CONSULTATIONS ON CSCE

REF: SOFIA 0441

1. SUMMARY: UK AMB DURING HIS 3-1/2 HOUR DISCUSSION OF CSCE
ADROITLY COUNTERED BULGARIAN CLAIM THAT "CAMPAIGN OF ENEMIES
OF DETENTE ON SUBJECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS" IS IN SOME WAY CONTRARY
TO LETTER OR SPIRIT OF FINAL ACT. BULGARIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN
MINISTER TRIED TO DRAW DISTINCTION BETWEEN "CRITICISM" OF
POLICIES OF ANOTHER COUNTRY AND "TRYING TO TURN PEOPLE AGAINST
THEIR OWN GOVT" (RFE). RE FOREIGN PUBLICATIONS BULGARIANS
PLEADED THEY ARE VERY EXPENSIVE BUT SAID NEVERTHELESS SOMETHING
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WOULD BE DONE. BULGARIAN SAID ECE COULD "PLAY A LEADING ROLE"
AT CONFERENCES PROPOSED BY SOVIETS AND AGREED WITH UK
THAT BELGRADE WAS NOT THE RIGHT PLACE TO DISCUSS DISARMA-
MENT. END SUMMARY.

2. DURING DISCUSSION OF BELGRADE CONF AND IMPLEMENTATION
OF FINAL ACT FEB 15, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER TSVETKOV

DELIVERED "LECTURE" TO UK AMB ABOUT ALLEGED CAMPAIGN IN CERTAIN WESTERN MEDIA (WHICH HE IMPLIED DID NOT REFLECT ATTITUDE OF GOVTS) ABOUT ALLEGED GROWING SOVIET MILITARY THREAT AND ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS, SAYING IT CREATED CLIMATE OF PSYCHOSIS REMINISCENT OF THE COLD WAR AND IGNORED AGREEMENTS SIGNED BY GOVTS. UK AMB CLOAKE REPLIED GOB SHOULD NOT BELIEVE THAT VIEWS EXPRESSED IN BRITISH PRESS WERE IN CONTRAVENTION OF FINAL ACT; THEY REFLECT GENUINE CONCERN AND ACTUALLY RELATE TO ONE OF THE PRINCIPLES IN BASKET 1. CLOAKE SAID HIS GOVT COULD NOT ACCEPT THE VIEW THAT ONE PRINCIPLE (THE ONE ON NON-INTERFERENCE) COULD TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER OTHERS (THE ONE ON RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES OF CITIZENS AND THE ONE ABOUT IMPLEMENTATION IN GOOD FAITH).

3. RELATED SUBJECT CAME UP AGAIN WHEN TSVETKOV DELIVERED THE USUAL PHILIPPIC AGAINST RFE/RL, SAYING BULGARIA "COULD NOT TOLERATE BROADCASTS WHOSE SOLE PURPOSE IS TO DENOUNCE THE FREEDOM OF INDIVIDUALS IN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND TURN THE CITIZENS AGAINST THEIR GOVTS." HE CLAIMED STATIONS WERE IN VIOLATION OF HELSINKI BUT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT "OF COURSE EVERY COUNTRY HAS THE RIGHT TO CRITICIZE EVERY OTHER COUNTRY. BULGARIAN MASS MEDIA CRITICIZE ASPECTS OF BRITISH SYSTEM." BUT HE SAID THIS IS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM "TRYING TO TURN PEOPLE AGAINST THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT." SINCE THIS CAME AFTER CLOAKE'S BASKET 111 PRESENTATION AND TOWARD END OF MEETING, IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT UK AMB RESPONDED TO THAT APPARENTLY NOVEL FORMULATION.

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4. RE INFORMATION IN GENERAL, TSVETKOV TOOK POSITION THAT EVERY GOVT HAS ITS OWN APPROACH ACCORDING TO ITS "ETHICAL AND MORAL PRINCIPLES." PERHAPS IN THE UK IT IS LEGAL FOR PEOPLE TO CALL FOR A NEW WAR, HE SAID, AND SOME PEOPLE WOULD DEFEND THIS ON THE BASIS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, BUT THAT FREEDOM HAD COST MILLIONS OF LIVES AND IN BULGARIA ADVOCACY OF WAR IS AN OFFENSE SUBJECT TO PROSECUTION. ALSO THERE IS NO FREEDOM TO DISSEMINATE PORNOGRAPHY, AND BULGARIA BANS SEX AND VIOLENCE FROM TV PROGRAMS THAT COULD BE SEEN BY CHILDREN. IN OTHER WORDS, "EACH COUNTRY IS FREE TO CHOOSE HOW IT WILL HANDLE INFORMATION. IN BULGARIA THE MASS MEDIA CULTIVATE WHAT IS BEAUTIFUL IN MAN AND PROMOTE AN ATMOSPHERE FAVORABLE TO INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION."

5. RE PUBLICATIONS CLOAKE EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT AT LACK OF PROGRESS IN MAKING BRITISH PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE TO BULGARIANS WHO WISH TO READ THEM. ONLY THE MORNING STAR (BRITISH COMMUNIST DAILY) AVAILABLE AND THAT ONLY IN MAJOR HOTELS. TSVETKOV ASKED HOW MANY COPIES OF RABOTNICHESKO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 SOFIA 0465

DELO ARE SOLD IN UK. CLOAKE SAID HE HAD NOT THE FAINTEST
IDEA AND NO MEANS OF FINDING OUT, TSVETKOV SHOULD ASK
RABOTNICHESKO DELO. TSVETKOV THEN SAID BULGARIA WOULD
LIKE TO INCREASE FOREIGN NEWSPAPERS BUT THESE ARE VERY
EXPENSIVE. NEVERTHELESS SOMETHING WOULD BE DONE TO IN-
CREASE THEIR AVAILABILITY, BUT IN ANY CASE MORE BULGARIANS
SUBSCRIBE TO BRITISH PAPERS THAN VICE VERSA. CLOAKE
SAID IT MAKES NO SENSE TO TRY TO STRIKE NUMERICAL BALANCE
SINCE UK USES A WORLD LANGUAGE WHEREAS BULGARIAN IS NOT
WIDELY READ. PAPERS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO THOSE WHO
WANT THEM.

6. BREZHNEV PROPOSALS, DISARMAMENT. CLOAKE SIDESTEPPED
QUESTION ABOUT CONFERENCE ON TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY AND
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ENVIRONMENT, REFERRING TO DISCUSSIONS IN ECE. TSVETKOV SAID ECE WOULD BE EXPECTED TO "PLAY A LEADING ROLE" AT A "CONGRESS" ON THOSE SUBJECTS, BUT THEY WERE TOO IMPORTANT TO BE LEFT TO THE "RED TAPE OF AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION." AT ANOTHER POINT IN DISCUSSION TSVETKOV REFERRED TO REDUCTION IN ARMS AS BEING "BEST CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURE" AND MENTIONED SOVIET DISARMAMENT PROPOSALS. CLOAKE SAID HE DID NOT THINK BELGRADE WAS THE RIGHT PLACE TO DISCUSS DISARMAMENT. TSVETKOV AGREED AND SAID SOME COUNTRIES WANTED TO DISCUSS DISARMAMENT BUT BULGARIA DID NOT SHARE THEIR VIEW.
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